
From: Greaves, Natasha
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2014 9:30 AM
To: Chu, Ed
Cc: Filippini, Mark; Voytilla, Marykay; Hamlin, Tim; Kelly, Joyce; Boykin, Michael
Subject: RE: Lifting the warning about tap water in Park Place

Ed
Thanks for sharing the comments from (b) (6) with the Union. (b) (6) provides a great summary of some of the follow-up issues we discussed at the water quality meeting on Tuesday. Tim and I briefly discussed the need for a follow up message to staff the end of the meeting. Based on the excerpt of your message and (b) (6) (request below, the Union would recommend sending a message to staff that covers/includes the following:

- Water testing data
- Subsequent testing conducted
- Plans to test the EPA floors

Thanks for getting the water quality data on the website. One suggestion is to use the info page and the water quality web page to let employees know when we plan on conducting testing and why it is important not to turn on water when there is a sign asking you not to do so.

ED's MESSAGE: We have asked for further testing of 16th floor drinking water sources and the building management agreed to conduct the testing next Tuesday. We have asked for further testing on the 1st floor in advance of our occupancy. The building management is also conducting additional tests in the fitness center.

(b) (6)(b) (6) REQUEST: In particular, it would be good to know the information and decision making criteria for lifting the drinking water ban for the entire building. It would also be helpful for you to provide more updates on what sampling is underway. Your email below excludes many of the floors that EPA sits on, so it's very unclear as to what our status has been and what the next steps are.

... it seems to me that having the office open is a violation of L&I rules

(<http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/corerules/PDFs/296-800-230.pdf>).


(b) (6) raises an interesting point that you raised with WA Holding at the meeting on Friday, the need to provide an alternate source of drinking water for staff. According to the WAC 296-800-23005 you must (1) Provide safe drinking (potable) water for employees for:

- Washing themselves.
- Personal service rooms.
- Cooking.
- Washing premises where food is prepared or processed.
- Washing food, eating utensils, or clothing.

In instances where we have a ban on drinking water, and the building has not provided potable water, the idea of promoting flexiplace as an alternative to working in the office is one worth discussing. Given that we are going to test the current EPA occupied floors, I would suggest that we have an opinion on the issue.

We also discussed having a brown bag with staff to talk about the water quality testing process and we should consider if we need to move forward with that. One option is to have the LMPF and/or Health and Safety Committee plan and sponsor/co-sponsor the event. Either group could post a comment on the management matters blog to solicit feedback and use that information to plan the brown bag. However we decide to proceed, what the union is hearing from staff is that they would like to engage in a discussion on the "event".

Thanks,

Natasha Greaves | AFGE Local 1110 President
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From: Chu, Ed

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 5:38 PM

To: (b) (6)(b) (6)

Cc: Greaves, Natasha; Filippini, Mark; Voytilla, Marykay; Hamlin, Tim; Kelly, Joyce

Subject: Re: Lifting the warning about tap water in Park Place

(b) (6) ,

Thanks for your feedback. I am sharing your comments with colleagues and AFGE President who helped me with decisions last week so we can do better next time.

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 5:02:54 PM

To: Chu, Ed

Subject: RE: Lifting the warning about tap water in Park Place

Hi Ed,

Thank you for keeping us informed on this issue. I think it would be helpful if Region 10 management could be much more transparent about this concerning issue as it evolves. In particular, it would be good to know the information and decision making criteria for lifting the drinking water ban for the entire building. It would also be helpful for you to provide more updates on what sampling is underway. Your email below excludes many of the floors that EPA sits on, so it's very unclear as to what our status has been and what the next steps are.

In addition, I'm confused as to why the building was open for employees on Friday. With the drinking water ban and no alternate source provided, it seems to me that having the office open is a violation of L&I rules

(<http://www.lni.wa.gov/wisha/rules/corerules/PDFs/296-800-230.pdf>). As far as I'm aware no alternate source was provided during the ban, although you mentioned it was "being looked into." Given a large majority of the employees are able to flexiplace, I think this should have been encouraged, if not required.

I appreciate you saying that the Region is taking this issue seriously and I'm sure there is a lot going on behind the scenes that employees are not aware of, but with the limited information being shared and the lack of a response beyond posting signs at drinking water fountains Friday, it's hard to see that. Unfortunately, I just filled out my EVS survey this year before this issue arose, so I cannot reflect my concerns in that forum.

Thanks,

(b) (6)(b) (6) | (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Region 10

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P: (206) 553- (b) (6)  (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

From: Chu, Ed

Sent: Friday, May 09, 2014 5:54 PM

Subject: Lifting the warning about tap water in Park Place

Importance: High

We spent today with GSA and the Park Place building management to review their drinking water sampling plan/protocol and sampling results from floors 16, 17, 20, and 21. Based on our review today, I am pleased to report that we identified only one location that exceeds the action level for lead, the 16th floor employee lounge. To eliminate exposure at that location, the building management closed off the water supply to the affected refrigerator and sink until we can determine the source of the problem. We have asked for further testing of 16th floor drinking water sources and the building management agreed to conduct the testing next Tuesday. We have asked for further testing on the 1st floor in advance of our occupancy. The building management is also conducting additional tests in the fitness center.

Test results show no elevated lead level above the action level on floors 17, 20, and 21. GSA drinking water tests conducted over the last three years at the Green Tree day care centers also show no elevated lead level above the action level. Although we do not have any information about our other floors in Park Place, based on the results from floors 17, 20, and 21 and the Green Tree day care center, we do not expect tap water in the building to exceed the action level.

Nevertheless, we continue to take this matter very seriously so we plan to conduct our own testing in our space in the coming weeks. We will share all results with you.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Kay Voytilla or Mark Filippini.

Edward H. Chu
Assistant Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Northwest and Alaska Region